

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07

NSC-07 SS-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 141120Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3776

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PK, EG, LY, SA

SUBJ: PAKISTAN PILOTS FLYING FOXBATS IN MIDDLE EAST?

1. PAK PRESS BOTH GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AND NON-OFFICIAL HAS CARRIED REUTERS STORY DATED WASHINGTON MARCH 13, QUOTING LATEST ISSUE OF "AVIATION WEEK" TO EFFECT PAKISTANI PILOTS ON MIDDLE EAST TRAINING MISSIONS MAY BE FLYING SOVIET MIG-25 FOXBATS IN EGYPT.

2. ACCORDING REUTERS, "AVIATION WEEK" ARTICLE REPORTED THAT PAK AIR FORCE (PAF) PILOTS ASSIGNED TO MIDDLE EAST TRAINING MISSIONS MAY BE WORKING WITH FORMER ROYAL AIR FORCE PILOTS TO FORM TRAINING CADRE WHICH WOULD BECOME CORE OF A FUTURE PAN-ARAB AIR FORCE. WITH AIR FORCE TOO LARGE TO SUPPORT IN PEACETIME, ARTICLE SAID, GOP IS NOW EXPORTING PAF MILITARY SKILLS AND EXPERTISE TO LIBYA AND SAUDI ARABIA. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE INDICATIONS EGYPT IS BUILDING UP SMALL SELECT GROUP OF PILOTS CAPABLE OF HANDLING FOXBAT, SOME OF WHOM MAY

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BE PAKISTANI.

3. IN PARAGRAPH ADDED TO REUTERS STORY, ASSOCIATED PRESS PAKISTAN STATED THAT GOP DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, WHEN CONTACTED ABOUT THE STORY, CHARACTERIZED IT AS "HIGHLY EXAGGERATED, MISLEADING AND MISCHIEVOUS".

4. COMMENT, ALTHOUGH ROLE OF PAF TRAINING MISSIONS IN MIDDLE EAST IS KNOWN, THIS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF THEIR POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT BY EGYPT. WHILE THIS ASPECT OF "AVIATION WEEK" STORY SOUNDS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE, MIGHT BE NOTED THAT GOP COMMENT, ALTHOUGH CRITICAL, STOPPED SHORT OF FLAT DENIAL.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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